

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of November 25, 2003.
No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this response.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 3-34 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 2 can be found in the specification at page 21 lines 3-19 and at page 25, line 17 to page 26, line 1.

The Specification

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. The substitute Abstract is within the required 50-150 word range.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner failed to consider four references (U.S. Patent 5,243,001, U.S. Patent 5,391,618, JP 9235313A and JP 6192500A) because insufficient copies or abstracts were provided. Attached to this paper are copies of U.S. Patent 5,243,001, and U.S. Patent 5,391,618 and copies of the English abstracts of JP 9235313A and JP 6192500A. Also, a clean version of the PTO-1449 form filed on April 12, 2002 is provided. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the

submitted art and to make the fully initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the next official action.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants traverse.

The Examiner asserts that claims 1 and 2 are indefinite because it is unclear whether a polymer or a polymer blend is being claimed. Claim 1 is drawn to an "ethylene-based copolymer," and therefore pertains to a single polymer. Claim 2 is drawn to a "copolymer composition," and therefore pertains to a blend containing the described polymer. Also, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more clearly set forth the inventive polymer and polymer composition.

Further, the Examiner turns to the working examples to ascertain the scope of the claims. However, there is not requirement that claim scope be encompassed by exemplary data.

As a result, claims 1 and 2 are clear, definite and have full antecedent basis. This rejection is accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

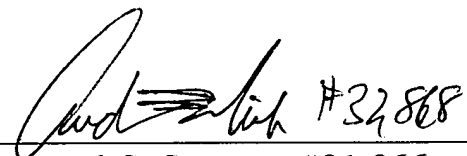
Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #32868
for Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066


RCS/REG/jls
1155-0239P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s): Copy of PTO-1449 form filed April 12, 2002
 Copy of USP 5,243,001
 Copy of USP 5,391,618
 Copy of JP 6-192500 (w/English Abstract)
 Copy of JP 9-235313 (w/English Abstract)
 Substitute Abstract